



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://latchildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, July 20, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (15-3485)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (15-3422)

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Biondi at 10:08 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Maria Brenes,
 Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen,
 Commissioner Wendy Garen, Commissioner John Kim,
 Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey, Commissioner Wendy B.
 Smith and Vice Chair Carol O. Biondi

Excused: Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Sunny Kang,
 Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Commissioner Liz
 Seipel and Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of the July 20, 2015 meeting attendees. (15-3413)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the July 20, 2015 Meeting Agenda. (15-3414)

**On motion of Commissioner Curry, seconded by Commissioner Smith,
(Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Konigar-Macklin, Seipel, and Vice Chair
Kamlager being absent), this item was approved.**

DRAFT

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of July 6, 2015. (15-3415)

On motion of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Berger, (Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Konigar-Macklin, Seipel, and Vice Chair Kamlager being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Vice Chair's report for July 20, 2015. (15-3416)

Vice Chair Biondi reported on the following:

- **The next Children and Families' Well-Being Cluster Board Agenda Briefing Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 743 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.**
- **The next System Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2015 from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM at St. Anne's Auditorium located at 155 N. Occidental Ave., Los Angeles 90026.**
 - **Commissioner Seipel, Commission for Children and Families Alternate on the System Leadership Team, requested a Commissioner volunteer to attend in her place.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Konigar-Macklin, Seipel, and Vice Chair Kamlager being absent), the Commission accepted Vice Chair Biondi's report.

5. Department of Children and Family Services Director's Report for July 20, 2015 by Philip Browning, Director. (15-3417)

Director Browning reported on the following:

- **As of July 1, 2015, the new State and County Budget Year has commenced. During this budget cycle, the Department of Children and Families (DCFS) received approval to hire 540 new employees, and will begin the hiring process for the supervisor and clerical positions needed to support the Children's Social Workers (CSW).**
- **DCFS continues to recruit Master of Social Work (MSW) graduates to fill staffing needs and is expecting nearly 100 students who have a one year obligation to work in a child welfare capacity. DCFS remains hopeful that the graduates will begin their professional assignments within the next 30 days.**

Most of the MSW graduates have completed an internship within DCFS' Emergency Response Unit. DCFS internship experience has been observed to help graduates transition into assuming professional work roles and increase attrition rates, when compared with MSW graduates with no DCFS prior experience.

- **DCFS is scheduled to host a ribbon cutting ceremony and walk through of their new University Training Site on Thursday, September 10, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; at the AT&T Center located at 1149 S. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015. The new state of the art training center enables four current training sites associated with four local universities to be consolidated into one centralized training center, collectively called "The DCFS University."**
- **DCFS is scheduled to host two training academies per month for the next six months for its new hires.**
- **The State Auditor began looking at records pulled from the Los Angeles County Probation Department and DCFS related to 241.1 dually-supervised youth. The County of Los Angeles is the first to be audited among three selected Counties.**
- **Robert S. Huff, California State Senate Republican Leader, will be touring the Children's Welcome Center. Senator Huff is the author of an electronic notification legislative bill initiated by DCFS. Currently, notifications of scheduled court hearings are mailed using the United States Postal Service, and consequently, are received late by the recipients. The use of an electronic notification system will require the recipients' email addresses and will be very effective in receiving court summons. The current law does not allow for the electronic distribution of court summons.**
- **California State Assembly member Autumn Burke is sponsoring an electronic information legislative bill, which would relieve DCFS' Hotline. The DCFS Hotline receives a large volume of calls and the goal is to automate the filing process of non-emergency cases by way of the internet.**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Director Browning responded with the following:

- **DCFS loses nearly eight workers for every 100 new workers hired within the first year. Among the 954 newly hired CSWs, DCFS lost 110 CSWs since August 2013.**

Based on exit interviews and surveys conducted by DCFS, the majority of the reasons for leaving were attributed to non-county employment, going back to school, working conditions, and personal reasons.

- **The California Joint Committee on Legislative Audit looks at audit opportunities and the County of Los Angeles is viewed as a broad sample. Senators have particular interest in the 241.1 dually-supervised youth population and want to evaluate if a cross-over program can be implemented or mandated if an effective model is discovered.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Cooper, Kang, Konigar-Macklin, Seipel, and Vice Chair Kamlager being absent), the Commission accepted Director Browning's report.

III. PRESENTATIONS

6. **Presentation by First 5 LA and the Commission for Children and Families on place-based initiatives:**
 - **Reuben De Leon, Senior Program Officer, Best Start Communities Department, First 5 LA**
 - **Julie Turvey, Community Liaison & School Based Services Supervisor, ChildNet Youth and Family Services**
 - **Commissioners Patricia Curry and John Kim (15-3409)**

Commissioner McCroskey introduced the presenters and reported on the following:

- **Commissioners Curry, Kim, and McCroskey are working on the Preventing Maltreatment Project with the Office of Child Protection (OCP). Conversations have been guided by the question: How do you engage communities, parents, and community stakeholders in a field that is still largely developing? Few groups have experience in operating this type of program.**
- **Amidst the many place-based initiatives occurring throughout Los Angeles County, few are beginning with the concept of preventing maltreatment; Best Start is currently pioneering a model establishment in a small area.**
- **Since the Commission is in the process of planning recommendations for County-based efforts, Commissioner McCroskey sees value in the**

Commission analyzing what is already taking place in the sphere of place-based initiatives that focus on preventing maltreatment.

Commissioner Curry described how Best Start's work relates to the past work of the Commission and reported on the following:

- **The Commission decided to make the concept of prevention a priority two years ago through drafting a report that described why prevention is important and what important action should be taken regarding prevention. The letter was presented to the Board of Supervisors (Board), Children and Families' Well-Being Cluster, and the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRCCP). The BRCCP ultimately placed prevention as one of its recommendations; and when selecting a total of six BRCCP recommendations, the OCP chose prevention as a primary focus. When compiling the report, the Commission viewed First 5 LA as a vital organization that upheld the concept of prevention through their Best Start and Home Visitation programs.**

Reuben De Leon, Senior Program Officer for Central Long Beach, East Los Angeles and South El Monte, Best Start Communities Department, First 5 LA, continued the introduction by briefing the Commission on their place based program, which is a framework designed to strengthen families in 14 communities assessed to have the greatest need. Emphasis is placed on the community of Central Long Beach as a disproportionate amount of child abuse and child maltreatment activity has been observed.

Mr. De Leon presented his portion of the PowerPoint and reported the following:

- **First 5 LA's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan supports parents who develop the protective factors outlined by the Center for the Study of Social Policy. Parents do not operate in a vacuum; they live in neighborhoods and belong to communities. Establishing social connections that promote parent and caregiver participation enhances the environment in which children live.**
- **First 5 LA's theory of change is if children are going to experience better long-term outcomes, families must be strong and the community must be supportive of the needs of the families.**
- **Currently there are over 800 active community partnerships members throughout the 14 Best Start communities.**

- The initial boundaries of the 14 Best Start communities were selected based on categories such as: low birth-weight, poverty, low-performing schools; and community assets, such as leadership infrastructure, and leveraging opportunities. First 5 LA worked closely with the community partnerships to determine if the boundaries were indeed reflective of how residents viewed their community. Each of the communities in this demographic profile represents nearly 100,000 residents spread across different supervisorial districts.
- The Central Long Beach community has a long history of working together to impact the services and resources available to parents and residents.
- Central Long Beach has the largest Cambodian community outside of Cambodia. This demographic has a poverty rate of more than twice that of the County of Los Angeles and nearly half of the adults are not high school graduates. In households with younger children, risks are higher for abuse and neglect due to a lack of connection and support.

Mr. De Leon introduced Julie Turvey, Community Liaison & School Based Services Supervisor, ChildNet Youth and Family Services, who presented the portion of the PowerPoint covering the Best Start Community partnership structure, its existing efforts and Central Long Beach's abuse and child abuse network. Ms. Turvey highlighted the following:

- Prevention: First 5 LA's Home Visitation Collaborative targets families that are at risk from the beginning within Central Long Beach.
- Long Beach Child Abuse Neglect Network (LBCANN): Long Beach Police Department convening is scheduled for next year, to discuss what their needs are, what LBCANN is seeing, and what needs to be changed or developed with how the police are handling child abuse cases.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, the panel representatives responded as follows:

- There was no funding attached to the resolution passed by the Long Beach City Council in collaboration with LBCANN regarding citywide violence prevention efforts.

- The ECE (Early Care and Education) Committee is comprised of leadership members from Best Start. The ECE Committee is actively attending community meetings in order to leverage already existing services related to ECE.
- The City of Long Beach Health Department is the contract agency responsible for overseeing the operations of the Best Start Central Long Beach community partnership, which subsequently translates down to the LBCANN. Ms. Turvey is on the leadership team for ChildNet.
- Upcoming opportunities in Long Beach that the LBCANN is focused on include developing the media campaign and the Police Department convening. First 5 LA is interested in developing the structure and organization of the LBCANN network.

Commissioner Kim commented on the Advancement Project's engagement with place based initiatives; and added comments to enlarge the conversation as the Commission thinks about how to support the OCP and its work in potentially building place based focus on prevention.

Commissioner Kim reported on the following:

- The Advancement Project launched a project called the Healthy City Program nearly 12 years ago with the goal to change how policies and resource allocation decisions were made. For the purposes of community and policy planning, the Healthy City Program included an online portal that geographically mapped the largest demographic for health and social services at the time. Data on every available social service, school and non-profit providing services on the system was made available for policy makers and community leaders alike. The goal was to use the data to spark engagement with the community and create tables for communities to have a voice and use these platforms to facilitate a complex and multi-stakeholder decision making processes.
- The Advancement Project aided First 5 LA by providing the data that supplemented the selection of the 14 Best Start Communities.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Brenes, Cooper, Kang, Konigar-Macklin, Seipel, and Vice Chair Kamlager being absent), the Commission accepted First 5 LA and the Commission for Children and Families' presentation.

Attachments: [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

7. Why CARE? (Crossover Advocacy & Resource Effort) Ensuring Crossover Youth have the tools and services they need to successfully complete Probation.
- Barbara Duey, J.D., Child Welfare Law Specialist, Supervising Attorney and Crossover Resource Director at the Children's Law Center of California (15-3412)

Vice Chair Biondi, introduced Barbara Duey, J.D., Child Welfare Law Specialist, Supervising Attorney and Crossover Resource Director at the Children's Law Center of California (CLC), Monique Barron, MSW, Supervising Investigator at CLCLA, Lanny Wilson, Investigator, CLCLA, and Letty Ortega, Investigator CLCLA.

Ms. Duey provided a brief history of CLC and proceeded to present CARE Unit PowerPoint presentation.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Duey, informed that the organization is serving 35 youth with the goal of helping them to navigate through the program and exit successfully.

Ms. Duey addressed Social Workers' involvement with the needs of youth, and responded that it all depends on the interaction between the Social Worker and the youth. Some Social Workers have a dynamic relationship with their youth and provide the services needed, while other youth reported that they have never talked to their Social Worker.

Ms. Duey apprised the Commission that a grant was received in the amount of \$20,000 and most of the money was spent on creating a database that will track youth outcomes.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Brenes, Cooper, Kang, Konigar Macklin, Seipel, and Vice Chair Kamlager being absent), the Commission accepted Ms. Duey and Ms. Barron's presentation.

Attachments: [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-3418)

There were none.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-3420)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Announcements

10. Announcements for the meeting of July 20, 2015. (15-3419)

There were none.

Adjournment

11. Adjournment for the meeting of July 20, 2015. (15-3421)

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.